

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The Island County Council of Governments met in Special Session on November 9, 2011 in the Commissioner's Hearing Room at 1 NE 6th Street Coupeville, Washington. The meeting was called to order by Chair Nancy Conard.

The Council of Governments Minutes and recordings of meetings may be located at <http://www.islandcounty.net/commissioners/documents/2011/2011COG.html>

Present: Nancy Conard, Mayor, Town of Coupeville
Angie Homola, Island County Commissioner
Kelly Emerson, Island County Commissioner
Helen Price Johnson, Island County Commissioner
Curt Gordon, Commissioner, South Whidbey Port
Benye Weber, Commissioner, Coupeville Port
Jim Slowik, Mayor, City of Oak Harbor
Bob Waterman, (in for Mayor, Paul Samuelson, City of Langley)

Also Present: Barbara Bailey, Representative, 10th Legislative District

Chair Conard passed out the 2012 Legislative Priorities to those present.

Discussion on each item was extensive. Representative Bailey spoke regarding each of the issues.

1. The **CAPRON Transportation funding** at this time has no discussion on the House floor, mostly because of the turnover in the house.
2. The **Public Works Trust Fund** is under controversy. There is a movement by some legislators to create a "State Bank" and roll the PWTF into it. There was a study group commissioned to study this, but there are still legal ramifications. It is something to think about and keep a watch on. She is opposed to the concept as it exists now. This fund needs to be protected.
3. There are two House Bills 1478 and 1156 that will help **minimize unfunded mandates** that are still active. Also House Bill 1855 would provide local government flexibility on some mandates.
4. **Unreasonable public records requests** are an ongoing problem everywhere. The Governor signed Bill 1899 which gives the discretion of the courts to have no cause or no penalties imposed on local entities. It is a fine line as to how the laws are made to address this issue.

5. On the **replacement of Deception Pass Bridge**, she feels that the more unified everyone is on this issue, the more visibility it will get. There is no money at the state level at this time. She is concerned about transportation infrastructure. Be proactive to be sure that it stays on the planning process. What would be involved in replacing the bridge? Create a "white paper" of expectations. Possibly look at RTPPO for some answers.
6. Jim Slowik spoke on **supporting the appointments of municipal court judges**. If they were to lose the opportunity to appoint a court judge it would eliminate smaller cities from having smaller courts. Possibly only cities under a certain size maybe 50,000-100,000 in population.
7. **Small works rosters under \$40,000 and prevailing wages are administrative burdens** to not only the entity but also the contractors. Possibly have the opportunity to exempt the smallest projects from the prevailing wage and the small works roster requirements. Need to find ways to not have to jump through all of the hoops on both ends, not just the entity. Rep Bailey knows that it is a huge issue and not only in small communities. She agrees that they need to find ways to make it easier.
8. Regarding the **updating the franchise language to support new technology**. There is no way to recoup a revenue source regarding cell phones. It is a tough issue to get across because technology is growing so fast. One phone call to ICOM the city of Oak Harbor \$45 and there is no funding for this. Requesting support on a utility tax on cell phones.
9. **The committee would like a state wide prescription drug take back program**. There was a vote at the state level that lost by 1 vote to have a program. Rep. Bailey would be willing to be on a committee, but feels it really needs to start in the local communities. She has not seen a Bill on this issue that works as of yet, but it is on the legislative list.
10. In **providing flexibility to local jurisdictions in use of certain dedicated funds to support fee attachments to building permits**. The fees would cover the costs of land use and to plan for growth and economic development. Some flexibility in the REET funds would be helpful.
11. **Would like the 3/10th Law & Justice sales tax supplant permanently removed**. Would like the ability to increase sales tax to 1/10th of 1% Mental Health sales tax and omit graduated supplement language. Veterans assistance is under the current expense level at this time and would like it removed. The Veterans assistance takes money that could be used for law enforcement.
12. **Retain DSHS funds for adult chemical and alcohol treatment facilities**. Would like some funding help with our limited resources. Cutting and restricting these funds would be detrimental to our community. We have no detox facility in Island County.


Representative Bailey thanked COG members for the invitation. She assured everyone that she is committed to create an atmosphere for more jobs. If the ideas are tangible, she will support them, but some items need to be put on hold until a better economy.

The last three items were not discussed at this time and will be brought forward at the next meeting which will be on December 14, 2011.

As there was no further business, Chair Nancy Conard adjourned the meeting.

Dated this 14th day of December, 2011.

APPROVED

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nancy Conard", written over a horizontal line.